

CORAL REEF NEWS
Coral Reef Conservation Program
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
May 2005 Volume 2 No. 8



NOAA Coral Reef News is a monthly e-newsletter established to provide current information on the activities of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) Coral Reef Conservation Program (CRCP) and other relevant NOAA programs. The CRCP supports effective management and sound science to preserve, sustain and restore valuable coral reef ecosystems. Back issues are available at <http://www.coralreef.noaa.gov>.

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OF SPECIAL NOTE

NOAA Inaugurates New Coral Reef Institute in Puerto Rico. The new Caribbean Coral Reef Institute (CCRI) was inaugurated on Monday, May 9th at the University of Puerto Rico-Mayaguez (UPR-M). Several NOAA representatives attended the inauguration, including NOAA Deputy Assistant Secretary Tim Keeney, who made remarks praising the support and dedication of key politicians, administrators, and researchers in making CCRI a reality. In particular, past Congressional Representative and now Governor of Puerto Rico, Anibal Acevedo-Vilá, and Ranking Member of House Appropriations Committee, Representative José Serrano (D, NY) were recognized for their support. CCRI is administered by the National Centers for Coastal Ocean Science/Center for Sponsored Coastal Ocean Research (CSCOR) with funding provided by Congress to NOAA's Coral Reef Conservation Program (CRCP). Although funded in its majority by a Congressional appropriation to Puerto Rico, CCRI's work is highly leveraged through collaborations with other NOAA funded programs, such as the Caribbean Marine Research Center, and its interaction with other organizations and government agencies. CCRI is managed jointly by UPR-M and Puerto Rico's Department of Natural and Environmental Resources (DNER) to provide timely, relevant information to be used by DNER in its coral reef management efforts. CCRI expects to extend its work and results to other Caribbean islands, becoming a hub for regional coral reef research. Read the full NOAA press release at <http://www.publicaffairs.noaa.gov/releases2005/may05/noaa05-r441.html>.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

NCCOS Co-sponsoring Major Coral Reef Meeting in Caribbean. The National Centers for Coastal Ocean Science (NCCOS) is co-sponsoring the 32nd Annual Association of Marine Laboratories of the Caribbean meeting to be held this June in Curacao, Netherlands Antilles. NCCOS will also chair a special session on applied coral reef research in the Caribbean. Other session topics include coral reef ecology; coral reef disease; pollution; and connectivity between larvae, reef species, nutrients and other physio-chemical factors. Grant monies are available for ten marine science students to attend the meeting. Meeting papers will be published in a dedicated issue of the *International Journal of Tropical Biology and Conservation* and distributed to over 100 university libraries worldwide. For more information, visit <http://www.amlc-carib.org/en/>.

Proceedings of the Second International Deep-Sea Coral Symposium Published. The proceedings of the Second International Deep-Sea Coral Symposium, held in Erlangen, Germany, from September 9-12, 2003, have now been published. The current key institutions involved in cold-water coral research have contributed 62 state-of-the-art articles from disciplines ranging from geology and oceanography to biology and conservation. Entitled "Cold-water Corals and Ecosystems" and edited by Murray Roberts and Mark Costello, this book is 1244 pages thick and contains 361 illustrations. For more information or to order, visit <http://www.springeronline.com/sgw/cda/frontpage/0,11855,1-40109-22-46811100-0,00.html>.

Fourth ICRAN Newsletter Now Available. The fourth issue of the International Coral Reef Action Network (ICRAN) is now available at <http://www.icran.org/PDF/Newsletterfebruary2005.pdf>. The newsletter details ICRAN news

from its network of sites, partners and events covering coral reef issues held over the last six months.

UPDATES

Atlantic

Coral Disease Outbreak Follow-Up Cruise Conducted in Flower Garden Banks National Marine Sanctuary. A two-day cruise was conducted to survey the East Flower Garden Banks (EFGB) and West Flower Garden Banks (WFGB) to determine the status of the first white plague coral disease outbreak to occur at the Flower Garden Banks National Marine Sanctuary (FGBNMS), reported on February 23, 2005. A total of 26 dives were conducted by five divers at five different buoy locations – three at the EFGB, and two at the WFGB. A total of 41 colonies were observed with white plague symptoms. In most colonies, disease progress appeared to have slowed down, as compared with the active lesions observed in February 2005. Identification tags and margin nails were placed in seven colonies exhibiting active white plague symptoms. During the initial observations, the following species were observed to be affected by the disease outbreak: *Montastraea franksi*, *M. faveolata*, *Diplora strigosa*, and *Porites astreoides*. During this latest effort, three additional species were observed to be affected: *M. annularis*, *Stephanocoenia intersepta*, and *Colpophyllia natans*. Learn more about FGBNMS at <http://www.sanctuaries.noaa.gov/oms/omsflower/omsflower.html>.

Flower Garden Banks Coral Reef Featured in Tennessee Aquarium's New Ocean Journey Hall. On April 29, 2005, the Tennessee Aquarium in Chattanooga held the grand opening of its new "Ocean Journey" hall, which features a major coral reef exhibit. Since

its opening in 1992, the aquarium has told the story of the Tennessee River's journey to the Gulf of Mexico. The new hall continues the story into the Gulf, culminating in a spectacular 600,000 gallon "Secret Reef" exhibit, which was designed to look like the coral reef found within the Flower Garden Banks National Marine Sanctuary (FGBNMS). The total cost of the new hall exceeded \$30 million, and the coral models in the Secret Reef exhibit required more than 1,400 tons of concrete. The Tennessee Aquarium worked closely with the FGBNMS in the development of this exhibit. For more information, visit http://www.tnaqua.org/Newsroom/OJ_main_press_release.asp.

Safe Sanctuaries 2005 Mock Oil Spill Drill Conducted in Florida Keys. Safe Sanctuaries 2005, an oil spill response drill, took place on April 19-21 in the Florida Keys, involving over 140 people from NOAA, the U.S. Coast Guard, the Florida Department of Environmental Protection, and Florida's Fish and Wildlife Research Institute. Approximately 30-40 additional people participated offsite in Silver Spring, MD; Seattle, WA; and several Florida locations. Despite high winds, all field operations were successful and over 2700 drift cards were deployed representing two different components of the hypothetical oil spill. A range of real-time ocean observations including real-time weather, ocean currents, bathymetry, high-frequency radar and aerial observations were useful in providing additional data for initializing the Hazmat trajectory models. Press coverage included local newspapers, radio and TV. Read the full NOAA press release at <http://www.publicaffairs.noaa.gov/releases2005/apr05/noaa05-041.html>.

NOAA Fisheries Seeking Public Comment on Proposal to List Two Coral Species as Threatened. NOAA Fisheries is seeking public comment on a proposed rule to list two species of coral, elkhorn and staghorn, as threatened

under the Endangered Species Act (ESA). The comment period began May 9, 2005, with the publication of the proposed rule in the Federal Register. Currently, NOAA Fisheries is requesting public comments relating to the status of these two species and the proposal to list them as threatened. If listed as threatened, the prohibitions of the ESA will not automatically apply, as they would if the species were listed as endangered. Therefore, NOAA Fisheries will develop a separate proposed "4(d) rule" detailing proposed prohibitions and protective measures for the conservation of these two species, to be implemented if the proposed rule to list these species as threatened is finalized. Once the proposed 4(d) rule is developed, public meetings will be held to solicit additional public comments on the proposed prohibitions and protective measures. To view the proposed rule, visit the Southeast Region's Protected Resources' website at <http://sero.nmfs.noaa.gov/pr/protres.htm>.

SEFSC Conducts Fish Spawning Research Expedition in Providencia, Columbia. In February 2005, NOAA Fisheries/Southeast Fisheries Science Center (SEFSC) scientists led an expedition to Providencia, Colombia to investigate the spawning behavior and spawning habitat preferences of black grouper (*Mycteroperca bonaci*). Over 60 dives were conducted by team members, in collaboration with scientists and fishermen from CORALINA, the environmental authority within the San Andres archipelago. Very rare courtship behavior (including color changes and interactions that have never been described) and habitat descriptions were recorded and photographed by the team. The team participated in outreach programs, interviewing and educating fishermen about spawning aggregations and otolith (earbone) removal, and was interviewed by several members of the local media. With further analysis of the habitat requirements, it is hoped

that similar aggregations can be located in U.S. waters. Although funded externally, this research ties into CRCP work in the Florida Keys, the U.S. Caribbean, and Mexico. Learn more about SEFSC at <http://www.sefsc.noaa.gov/>.

Pacific

NOAA Ship *HI'IALAKAI* Returns From Its First Mapping Cruise in the NWHI. From April 4-23, 2005, during the first mapping cruise aboard the NOAA Ship *HI'IALAKAI*, ten scientists from the NOAA Fisheries/Pacific Islands Regional Office and the Pacific Islands Fisheries Science Center mapped the western bank of French Frigate Shoals (FFS) and the 25 fathom boundary at Nihoa Island in the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands (NWHI). In nine days of survey at FFS, approximately 250 sq. km of seafloor between 20-100m depth were mapped with 95% coverage west of La Perouse Pinnacle using multibeam sonars aboard the *HI'IALAKAI* and the survey launch R/V *AHI*. Two days were spent at Nihoa in order to map the 25 fathom isobath, which is needed to define the boundaries of the NWHI Coral Reef Ecosystem Reserve (Reserve). Preliminary Nihoa data were provided to Reserve managers within a week of the cruise ending. Other surveys in depths up to 3000m were collected during transits to fill gaps in existing multibeam coverage. Learn more about the *HI'IALAKAI* at <http://www.moc.noaa.gov/ha/>.

***HI'IALAKAI* Departs on 25-Day Research Expedition to NWHI.** The Northwestern Hawaiian Islands Coral Reef Ecosystem Reserve (Reserve) is leading a multi-agency research expedition from May 14th to June 7th to conduct coral bleaching and disease surveying, benthic mapping, predator tagging, a fish species survey, and an archaeological investigation of recently discovered shipwreck remains at Pearl and Hermes Atoll. The ship's newly installed multi-beam sonar mapping

system will be utilized to gather valuable information on habitats and seafloor areas. The Reserve worked closely with partner agencies, State of Hawai'i/Division of Aquatic Resources (Hawai'i DAR) and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (U.S. FWS), to finalize permits for scientific collections during the cruise. A total of 11 permits were issued (four from the Reserve) authorizing priority research activities that directly support the Reserve's management needs. This cruise was organized by the Reserve in collaboration with NOAA Fisheries, the University of Hawai'i's Hawai'i Institute of Marine Biology, Hawai'i DAR, and the U.S. FWS.

NOAA CRCP Supports Environmental Enforcement Workshop in American Samoa. The NOAA CRCP recently coordinated an Environmental Enforcement Workshop in American Samoa from March 29-31, 2005, the third Workshop in a series for U.S. jurisdictions with coral reefs. NOAA (CRCP, Office of Law Enforcement, and General Council for Enforcement Litigation) collaborated with the Department of Justice, the Environmental Protection Agency, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and the Coast Guard to conduct training on federal environmental statutes such as the Endangered Species Act, the Magnuson-Stevens Act, the Marine Mammal Protection Act, the Ocean Dumping Act, the Oil Pollution Act, the Migratory Bird Treaty Act, and the Clean Water and Clean Air Acts. The Workshop explained how these statutes can be applied at the Territorial level and in Territorial waters. In addition to environmental legal information, other topics of the training included a comparison of civil and criminal cases, how to build a case for criminal or civil prosecution, how to foster team and interagency cooperation, ethics, civil forfeiture, and ways in which the enforcement community can better utilize these tools to bring successful cases. At the end of the workshop the locals decided to develop a local interagency environmental team that will work together to

maximize agency capabilities and strengthen cross-agency communication. Governor Tulafono was supportive of this effort. NOAA CRCP, in cooperation with the local Coral Reef Advisory Group and the NOAA Office of Law Enforcement/Pacific Islands Division, will be tracking the success of this new tool in island enforcement.

Coral Reef Monitoring Workshop to be Offered at the Palau International Coral Reef Center in July. The NOAA CRCP and the Palau International Coral Reef Center (PICRC) are hosting a coral reef monitoring workshop from July 6-20 in Palau. The purpose of this workshop is to help build capacity and expand coral ecosystem monitoring in the Freely Associated States. Key participants from Kosrae, Pohnpei, and Yap (Federated States of Micronesia), and the Republic of Marshall Islands have been identified by state agencies and local stakeholders. This workshop will involve intensive classroom and field training, with an emphasis on coral and fish monitoring. Training will be offered by Dr. Mark Tupper (PICRC) and Rob van Woesik (Florida Institute of Technology). Participants will have an opportunity to establish collaborative partnerships in order to support a regionally coordinated monitoring effort in the future. Learn about PICRC at <http://www.picrc.org/>.

National/Headquarters

New Satellite Wind Data Set Includes Coral Reefs Areas. One of the limitations of microwave satellite-derived marine wind data sets is their lack of coverage in coastal areas such as coral reefs. Starting with the Level 3 QuikSCAT daily wind speed and direction data, NOAA's National Oceanographic Data Center (NODC) recently developed a weekly, global wind data set where the near-shore and high-latitude gaps are filled with an objective analysis technique. Additionally, an explicit

land and sea ice mask were added. The weekly wind speed and vector data for 1999-2004, as well as annual, seasonal, monthly, and weekly climatologies can be found on ftp://data.nodc.noaa.gov/pub/data.nodc/pathfinder/NODC_QuikSCAT_Winds/. Validation studies are underway, with preliminary results suggesting that this data set may be useful for coral reef bleaching and larval dispersal applications.

CORAL REEFS IN THE NEWS

Articles mentioning NOAA

“Scientist tagging Keys lobsters to track movements” – May 1, 2005 (*Associated Press in the Tallahassee Democrat* and approx. 10 other outlets). “KEY WEST, Fla. - ...Starting in May, more than six dozen Florida spiny lobsters that sprint around the Tortugas Ecological Reserve off Key West will be carrying a little extra baggage.” http://www.tallahassee.com/mld/tallahassee/news/breaking_news/11538676.htm

“It’s oceanography, up close” – May 4, 2005 (*Honolulu Advertiser*). “LAHAINA, Maui — Shavonn Matsuda didn’t know exactly what to expect yesterday on her field trip aboard a NOAA research vessel, but she knew it would be better than going to class.” <http://the.honoluluadvertiser.com/article/2005/May/04/ln/ln23p.html>

“Refuge status sought for northwest islands” – May 6, 2005 (*Honolulu Advertiser*). “The Northwestern Hawaiian Islands are surrounded by some of the most extensive and healthy coral reefs in the world and are home to more than 7,000 species of marine plants and animals such as the endangered monk seal and green sea turtle.” <http://the.honoluluadvertiser.com/article/2005/May/06/ln/ln14p.html>

“Northwestern Islands get protection plan” – May 6, 2005 (*Honolulu Star-Bulletin*).

“State waters surrounding the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands would become a highly protected "marine refuge" under a proposal announced yesterday.” <http://starbulletin.com/2005/05/06/news/story10.html>

“Save the Reef: Simulated reef grounding turns real.” May 6, 2005 (*Florida Sportsman*). “The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), the U.S. Coast Guard and Florida Department of Environmental Protection responded to a simulated ship grounding and oil spill in the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary two weeks ago, according to the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission.” <http://www.floridasportsman.com/casts/050506d/>

“‘Disoriented’ sailors rescued after hitting reef” – May 10, 2005 (*Key West Citizen*). “BOCA CHICA — The Coast Guard rescued two men described as "elderly" after their sailboat grounded on a reef seven miles off Boca Chica on Monday morning... National Marine Sanctuaries officers spent Monday trying to dislodge the boat from the reef. The boat sank while being pulled off, but crews were able to refloat it and take it to shore, sanctuary spokeswoman Cheva Heck said.” <http://secure.floridakeys.com/keysnews/archive/s/index.cfm> (\$1.25 to access article)

“Public can comment on proposed coral listing” – May 11, 2005 (*Key West Citizen*). “The general public now can weigh in on whether three types of coral should be placed on the federal endangered species list, a move that one environmental group says will raise awareness of the impacts of global warming.” <http://secure.floridakeys.com/keysnews/archive/s/index.cfm> (\$1.25 to access article)

“NOAA Responds to Mock Ship Grounding and Oil Spill in Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary” – May 12, 2005 (NOAA Magazine). “NOAA, the U.S. Coast Guard and Florida Department of Environmental Protection responded to a simulated ship grounding and oil spill in the NOAA Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary.”
<http://www.noaanews.noaa.gov/stories2005/s2436.htm>

“Marine refuge proposed for NW islands” – May 14, 2005 (Honolulu Advertiser). “The Board of Land and Natural Resources yesterday approved a plan to create a marine refuge in waters three miles around each of the islands in the 1,200-mile-long Northwestern Hawaiian Islands chain.”
<http://the.honoluluadvertiser.com/article/2005/May/14/ln/ln26p.html>

“Marine refuge proposed for NW islands” – May 14, 2005 (Associated Press in The Maui News). “HONOLULU – State waters off the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands would gain marine refuge status under a popular proposal approved by the state Board of Land and Natural Resources on Friday.”
<http://www.mauinews.com/story.aspx?id=8831>

“Coral reefs need more protection” – May 16, 2005 (The Miami Herald - OPINION). “The National Marine Fisheries Service wants to list two types of coral -- elkhorn and staghorn -- as endangered species. This push comes none too soon, because the elkhorn and staghorn are under assault by both humankind and nature.”
<http://www.miami.com/mld/miamiherald/news/opinion/11656304.htm>

“Hawaii Congressman Proposes World's Largest Marine Refuge” – May 17, 2005 (Environment News Service). “WASHINGTON, DC - Congressman Ed Case, a Hawaii Democrat, Monday introduced

legislation that would create ‘the largest marine protected area in our world’ in the waters of the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands.”
<http://www.ens-newswire.com/ens/may2005/2005-05-17-09.asp#anchor1>

“Plan for marine refuge opposed” – May 23, 2005 (Honolulu Advertiser). “U.S. Rep. Ed Case's proposal for a marine refuge around the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands, where all fishing, lobstering and coral diving would be banned, is frustrating to federal officials who believe the area can easily handle limited use of its resources.”
<http://the.honoluluadvertiser.com/article/2005/May/23/ln/ln10p.html>

“Team Hunts Deadly 'Ghost Nets' in the Pacific” (Audio) – May 31, 2005 (NPR). “Every year high seas fishing boats lose and abandon fishing nets that can be miles long. These so-called ghost nets keep on killing, sweeping up fish, turtles, seabirds and whales. Now a team of American scientists says it has learned to track their movements throughout the Pacific Ocean.”
<http://www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=4673939>

Other articles

“Marine preserves show positive results” – May 2, 2005 (The Pacific Daily News). “It doesn't make sense to poison, strangle or starve the goose that lays the golden eggs.”
<http://www.guampdn.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20050502/NEWS01/505020306/1002>

“Tsunami leaves garbage problems for atoll nation” – May 4, 2005 (Reuters AlertNet). “Most visitors to the Maldives only get to see idyllic white sand beaches on beautiful resort islands surrounded by sparkling azure seas. However the scattered atoll nation faces a major challenge to process waste, exacerbated

by the 26 December tsunami – a challenge the International Federation is helping the local population to meet.”

<http://www.alertnet.org/thenews/fromthefield/218536/111522288185.htm>

“Artificial coral to revive Nakhon Si Thammarat reefs” – May 5, 2005

(*MCOT.org*). “NAKHON SI THAMMARAT – Local officials in Thailand's southern province of Nakhon Si Thammarat have teamed up with a conservation organization to release artificial coral into the sea in Pak Phanang district in a bid to restore its marine ecosystem.”

<http://www.mcot.org/query.php?nid=38209>

“Paradise not lost along Thai coast” – May 7, 2005

(*Asia Times Online*). “HUA HIN - Since the December 26 tsunami devastated the coastlines of a dozen Asian countries, the tourism industry in Thailand has been in first gear, slowly and painfully struggling its way up a hill that was created by the one of the world's largest natural disasters.”

http://www.atimes.com/atimes/Southeast_Asia/GE07Ae01.html

“Island's reefs face threat of destruction, Cousteau says” – May 8, 2005 (*Orlando Sentinel*). “SAN JUAN -- The miles of shores circling Puerto Rico are in environmental crisis, and unless something is done to reverse the trend, more of the island's delicate coral reefs will become endangered.”

<http://www.orlandosentinel.com/news/columnists/orl-asecray08050805may08.1.4441676.column?col=orl-home-headlines>

“Reefs worth more for tourism than fishing in Australia” – May 8, 2005

(*Mongabay.com*). “The planet's largest living organism is worth more to Australia as an intact ecosystem than an extractive reserve for fishing.”

http://news.mongabay.com/2005/0508-rhett_butler.html

“Tsunami dumped tonnes of sediment on reef” – May 10, 2005 (*Agence France-Presse on ABC Science Online*). “The Indian Ocean tsunamis caused extensive damage to coral reefs of the Andaman and Nicobar islands, which are now smothered by sediment that scientists say will take years to wash off.”

http://abc.net.au/science/news/enviro/EnviroRepublish_1364070.htm

“Negril reefs in serious trouble from sewage pollution, again” – May 10, 2005

(*The Jamaica Observer*). “The Negril Coral Reef Preservation Society (NCRPS) is calling for an action plan to address the issue of effluent flowing into the Negril River, again.”

http://www.jamaicaobserver.com/news/html/20050510T000000-0500_80206_OBS_NEGRIL_REEFS_IN_SERIOUS_TROUBLE_FROM_SEWAGE_POLLUTION_AGAIN.asp

“Sea squirt microbe could biosynthesize anti-cancer compound” – May 10, 2005

(*ScienceBlog.com*). “In a project that could have far-reaching implications for natural-product drug development, scientists have shown how a microbe that lives inside sea squirts could be used to biosynthesize a chemical compound that may help fight cancer.”

<http://www.scienceblog.com/cms/node/7841>.

Read the original press release at http://www.tigr.org/new/press_release_05-09-05.shtml

“Bahrain May Build Sea Horse-Shaped Island” – May 10, 2005 (*Associated Press in New York Newsday and approx. 40 other outlets*). “MANAMA, Bahrain -- Man-made islands shaped like palm trees and a map of the world are already rising above the turquoise Persian Gulf, and Bahrain said Wednesday it wants to join the craze by building an island of

its own -- in the shape of a sea horse.”

<http://www.nynewsday.com/news/nationworld/world/wire/sns-ap-sea-horse-island,0,1787233.story?coll=sns-ap-world-headlines>

“Expedition under way to explore reefs” – May 12, 2005 (*FishUpdate.com*). “AN expedition has been launched to explore little-known coral reefs off the West of Scotland. One of the oldest and least explored habitats on earth is being explored by Greenpeace and the Scottish Association for Marine Science (SAMS).”

http://www.fishupdate.com/news/fullstory.php/aid/2603/Expedition_under_way_to_explore_reefs_.html

“Tsunami-ravaged reefs best left to recover unaided” – May 13, 2005 (*NewScientist.com*).

“...A new advisory report, commissioned by the World Bank, argues that governments should focus the scant resources available on minimising over-fishing and other hindrances to natural recovery, rather than launching into costly artificial reef-restoration projects.”

<http://www.newscientist.com/article.ns?id=dn7374>

“Red Cross signs \$11m aid deal” – May 16, 2005 (*The Daily Telegraph, Australia, and approx. 8 other outlets*). “The Australian Red Cross has signed an agreement with the Maldives to clean up tsunami debris on 70 islands of the tiny island nation at a cost of more than \$11 million.”

<http://dailytelegraph.news.com.au/story.jsp?sectionid=1274&storyid=3135308>

“Sunken ships are emperors of the sea: Sunken barges and ships are popular attractions for artificial reefs and wreck divers” – May 19, 2005 (*Orlando Sentinel*).

“...Once considered a novelty, the artificial reef program is an environmental – and economic – boon. The state now has more than

2,000 artificial reefs, which experts estimate bring \$10 for every dollar spent in establishing the underwater habitats.”

<http://www.orlandosentinel.com/sports/orl-sptwreckdiving19051905may19,0,210560.story?coll=orl-sports-headlines>

“Man-made ark charged with regrowing coral” – May 20, 2005 (*Scotsman, UK*). “It sounds like something from The Island of Dr Moreau, but scientists are using low-level electricity to regenerate coral destroyed in the high sea temperatures caused by El Niño in 1988.”

<http://news.scotsman.com/scitech.cfm?id=555702005>

“Cleanup found 22% more debris” – May 21, 2005 (*Honolulu Advertiser*). “Hawaii’s beaches coughed up 22 percent more debris — primarily cigarette butts and beverage lids — in a recent annual volunteer cleanup, raising concerns about the health of one of the state’s biggest attractions, advocates say.”

<http://the.honoluluadvertiser.com/article/2005/May/21/ln/ln06p.html>

“Ban on Black Coral From Hawaii Urged” – May 22, 2005 (*Associated Press in The New York Times*). “An advisory group has recommended a five-year ban on harvesting black coral in Hawaiian waters because younger populations of the coral are declining.”

<http://www.nytimes.com/2005/05/22/national/22hawaii.html?ex=1117857600&en=0dd0fa00cacf06ae&ei=5070>

“Recordings of coral reef sounds attract fish: Pied Pipers of the Reef” – May 24, 2005 (*Mongabay.com*). “According to an international team of researchers based in Australia’s Great Barrier Reef, using recordings of reef sounds may increase reef fish stocks depleted by shipping traffic, underwater drilling and overfishing.”

http://news.mongabay.com/2005/0524-tina_butler.html

“UC Santa Cruz engineering students develop a coral reef monitoring system” – May 25, 2005 (UC Santa Cruz Press Release). “Five senior engineering students at the University of California, Santa Cruz, are trying to push the limits of low-power wireless transmission to facilitate the monitoring of remote natural environments. The apparatus they are building will track conditions on coral reefs in distant locations and beam information back in real time to a land-based station.”
http://www.ucsc.edu/news_events/press_releases/text.asp?pid=694

“Study: Raw Sewage Killing Coral Reefs” – May 25, 2005 (The Associated Press in The Washington Post and approx. 40 other outlets). “CHARLOTTE AMALIE, U.S. Virgin Islands -- Raw sewage discharged into the ocean kills coral reefs at an alarming rate, a new U.S. Virgin Islands study says.”
<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2005/05/25/AR2005052501940.html>

“Marine experts say Taiwan needs to improve preservation efforts” – May 27, 2005 (Taiwan Headlines). “Three American marine experts have suggested that Taiwan should make more of an effort to preserve its marine resources, since they found a great variety of marine life and four new species of fish in two deep-diving missions near Green

Island.”

<http://english.www.gov.tw/index.jsp?id=13&recid=106651&viewdate=0>

“Bringing back the beaches” – May 27, 2005 (The Miami Herald). “South Florida’s sand-starved beaches are getting a needed refill to keep tourists happy and cushion shoreline development from storms.”
<http://www.miami.com/mld/miamiherald/11751294.htm>

“Fishermen to help preserve reefs: Members of the Port Salerno Commercial Fishermen’s Dock Authority to donate resources to aid the underwater world.” – May 30, 2005 (Fort Pierce Tribune, FL, on MSNBC.com). “After years of fighting over the rules governing local waters, commercial fishermen are offering a gesture of peace — for the first time volunteering to help environmental activists and divers protect one of the area’s most impacted reefs.”
<http://msnbc.msn.com/id/8043898/>

“Coral reefs: A dying situation?” – May 31, 2005 (New Straits Times, Malaysia). “If any living organism is facing threats from every direction, it is the coral. The threats include pollution that has made the ocean acidic, global warming that has raised water temperature, development that has led to sedimentation and trawling which has destroyed coral habitats.”
http://www.nst.com.my/Current_News/NST/Wednesday/National/20050601081444/Article/indexb.html

UPCOMING EVENTS

If you have events you would like listed in future newsletters please contact coralreef@noaa.gov.

June 2005

8 – 9: **Capitol Hill Oceans Week 2005**. Washington, DC. www.nmsfocean.org/

13 – 17: **32nd Scientific Meeting of the Association of Marine Laboratories of the Caribbean (AMLC)**. Abstracts due April 1, 2005. Curacao, Netherlands Antilles. http://www.amlc-carib.org/en/future_meetings/2005_scientific_meeting_curacao/about_the_meeting/

19 – 24: **American Society of Limnology and Oceanography (ASLO) Summer Meeting**. Abstracts due Feb. 1, 2005. Santiago de Compostela, Spain. <http://aslo.org/santiago2005/>

July 2005

11 – 16: **National Marine Educators Association Annual Conference**. Maui, HI. <http://www.hawaii.edu/mcc/oceania/NMEA05.html>

17 – 21: **Coastal Zone 2005**. New Orleans, LA. <http://www.csc.noaa.gov/cz/>

August 2005

13 – 19: **8th International Phycological Congress**. Durban, South Africa. <http://www.ipc8.org.za/>

September 2005

19 – 23: **Marine Technology Society and IEEE Oceanic Engineering Society Oceans Conference 2005**. Abstracts due Feb. 15, 2005. Washington, DC. <http://www.oceans2005.org/>

October 2005

23 – 27: **The First International Congress on Marine Protected Areas**. Geelong, Australia. www.impacongress.org

31 – Nov. 2: **Sustainable Beaches Conference 2005**. St. Petersburg, FL. <http://www.cleanbeaches.org/events/summit/2005/>

November 2005

3 – 5: **14th U.S. Coral Reef Task Force Meeting**. Palau. <http://www.coralreef.gov/meetings/announcements.html>

28 – Dec. 2: **Third International Symposium on Deep-Sea Corals**. Miami, FL. <http://www.conference.ifas.ufl.edu/coral>

February 2006

7 – 9: **First International Symposium on Mangroves as Fish Habitat**. Miami, FL. <http://www.rsmas.miami.edu/conference/mangrove-fish-habitat/>

Questions, comments?

Contact coralreef@noaa.gov, NOAA Coral Reef Conservation Program.

Access to NOAA's coral reef data and information is provided through NOAA's Coral Reef Information System at <http://www.coris.noaa.gov>. Current news on NOAA's coral reef activities can be found on the NOAA Coral Reef Conservation Program Web site, <http://www.coralreef.noaa.gov>.

